



911 is the number most people dial to summon emergency help. It must work the first time; every time and as our county changes, the 911 Center must change to meet the growing needs.

The County's *Capital Improvement Committee* has made its recommendation to the Board of County Commissioners that 911 is to be the #1 priority for establishing a new facility. They have said that the new building should be of adequate size to meet the needs for a county population of 150,000.

CURRENT 911 CENTER CHALLENGES

Operations and Maintenance / Facility

- Increased costs of new technology have precluded our Center from utilizing systems which include, voice and radio over Internet Protocol, automatic vehicle location, mobile data terminals and coming changes with radio systems technologies. A lack of funding has restricted our ability to keep up with and plan for future needs. In addition there are costs associated with maintenance of a new facility.

Staffing

- Presently, 34% of the time only 2 dispatchers are working and handling the needs of Emergency Responders and the public. We have immediate need for additional staffing, but have no room to add additional dispatch consoles. Service delivery to Emergency Responders has been marginalized because of staffing shortages.

Equipment

- Emergency communications requires highly complex computer equipment, microwave technology as well as equipment back-up. The computers that provide the backbone of information processing are 7yrs old. Some of our radio systems are 15 yrs old. Industry best practices standards have replacement cycles of 3-5yrs. The State surcharge of .50 on each phone (including cellular) is revenue that has been required for daily operations. We have never been able to utilize these funds for equipment replacement as was the original intent for that money.

HOW WILL THE MONEY BE SPENT?

Operations and Maintenance

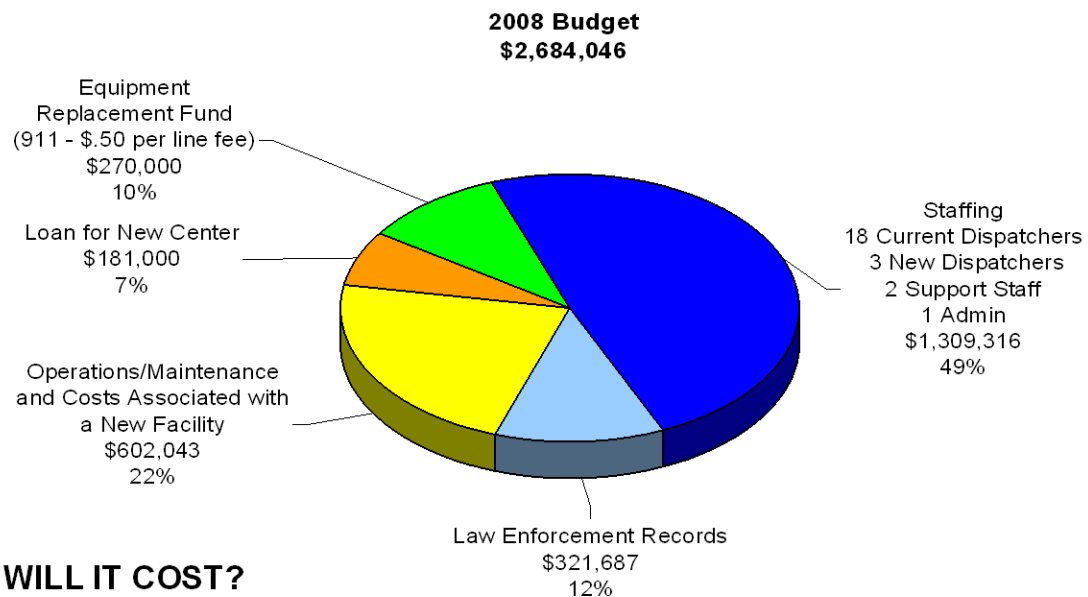
- We will be able to plan for and implement new technologies that will allow us to work smarter. These new technologies will enable us to reduce the response times for law, fire, and medical responders and that translates into lives saved.

Staffing

- Added staff means an increased ability to handle the work load volume and provide reduced response times for emergency responders. A new facility will allow us to add additional Dispatch Consoles to cover present and future demands.

Equipment

- We will be able to replace computer systems that are over 7 years old, and radio systems that are over 15 years old, and be prepared for the new Public Safety Communications technologies that are coming to Montana. For the first time we would be able to utilize the State surcharge fund to develop an equipment replacement account for all computer, radio, voice and data systems for emergency communications.



WHAT WILL IT COST?

- The proposed 9 Mill Public Safety Levy will generate \$1,629,729. The cost for a home with a taxable market value of \$200,000 would see an increase of approximately \$36.51 annually.

THE FUTURE

- 911 is a service that cuts through all boundaries. The funding that would be provided by the Mill levy will solve one part of the Public Safety puzzle and remove the issue from the list of needs for the foreseeable future. Being able to deliver emergency services requires a commitment of financial resources that is fair and equitable to every tax paying citizen.

ENDORSEMENTS

Gallatin County Board of County Commissioners
City of Bozeman Commission
Criminal Justice Coordinating Council
Gallatin County Fire Council
Gallatin Capital Improvements Committee
Belgrade City Council

Three Forks City Council
Three Forks Marshall
Bozeman Police Protective Assoc
Int'l Assoc of Firefighters #613
Bozeman Chamber of Commerce
West Yellowstone Town Council